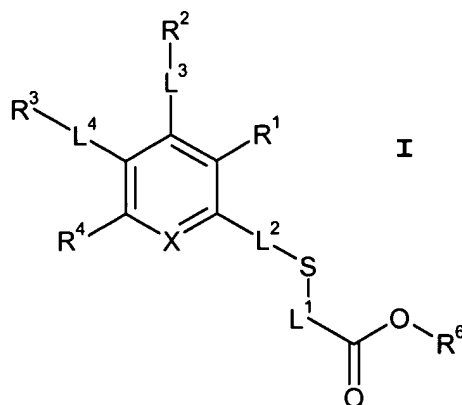


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application: **(AS ON AMENDED SHEET(S) ANNEXED TO IPRP)**

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

X is N or CH;

R¹ is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or –NH₂; or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or –NH₂; or –OR, –NHR, –NR₂ or –SR wherein R is C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or –NH₂;

R² is H, CF₃; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R³ an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are

single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R³ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R² an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R⁴ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl;

R⁶ is selected from H or optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₅₋₆ aryl and C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ aryl;

L¹ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene or -L⁵N(R⁵)L⁶-, or C₁₋₄ alkylene substituted by either C₁₋₇ alkyl or C₅₋₇ aryl, wherein L⁵ and L⁶ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and C₅₋₆ arylene, and R⁵ is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and further wherein L¹ may be unsubstituted C₁₋₄ alkylene when X is N;

L² is a single bond; or optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene or -L⁷C(=O)L⁸-, wherein L⁷ and L⁸ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and a single bond; and

L³ and L⁴ are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond;
~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in a method of therapy.~~

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein R⁶ is H or C₁₋₇ alkyl.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L¹ is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH₂-phenylene- and -CH₂C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L² is a single bond or -C(=O)CH₂-.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L³ is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

7. (original) A compound according to claim 6 wherein L³ is a single bond.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L^4 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene- C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8 wherein L^4 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$, -phenylene- $CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$, -phenylene-NHN(OH)C(=O)- and $-CH_2C(=O)N(OH)-$.

10. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein X is CH.

11. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein two of R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are all H.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of R^2 and R^3 is

optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R³ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R³ is optionally substituted phenyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

17. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R³ is phenyl or cyclopentyl.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein L¹ is phenylene or –CH(Ph)–.

19. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of L³ and L⁴ is a single bond.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 19 wherein L³ is a single bond.

21. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 9~~ wherein X is N.

22. (original) A compound according to claim 21 wherein R^4 is selected from optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl and C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

23. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein R^1 is cyano or hydroxamic acid.

24. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl, CF_3 and, together with R^3 , an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_6 ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached.

25. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

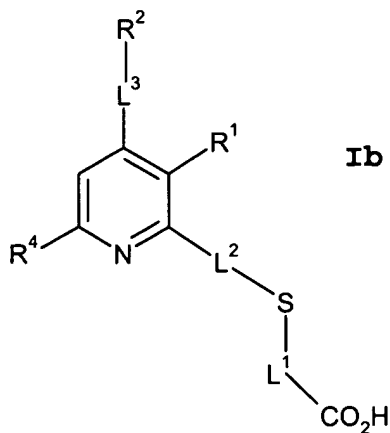
26. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from optionally substituted phenyl or thiophenyl.

27. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of thiophenyl, phenyl, *p*-chlorophenyl, *p*-methoxyphenyl, *o*-methoxyphenyl and *p*-fluorophenyl.

28. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 24 to 26~~ wherein R^2 is a monosubstituted phenyl group with the substituent group being in the *para* position.

29. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 21 to 28~~ wherein R^3 is H or, together with R^2 , an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_6 ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached.

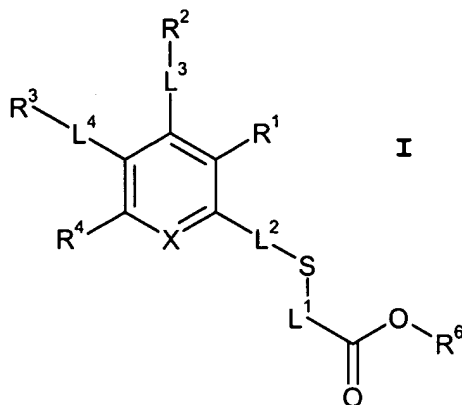
30. (original) A compound according to claim 29 wherein R^3 is H and L^4 is a single bond such that the compound is of formula **Ib**:



31. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claim[[s]] 1~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (original) A compound of formula I:



or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is N or CH;

R¹ is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂; or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂; or -OR, -NHR, -NR₂ or -SR wherein R is C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂;

R² is H, CF₃; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R³ an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R³ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R² an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are

single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R⁴ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl;

R⁶ is selected from H or optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₅₋₆ aryl and C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ aryl;

L¹ is optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene or -L⁵N(R⁵)L⁶-, wherein L⁵ and L⁶ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and C₅₋₆ arylene, and R⁵ is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

L² is a single bond; or optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene or -L⁷C(=O)L⁸-, wherein L⁷ and L⁸ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and a single bond; and

L³ and L⁴ are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; and wherein the compound contains at least one -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

35. 35. (original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R¹, L³ or L⁴ comprises a -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

36. (original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L⁴ comprises a -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

37. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 36~~ wherein L^4 is a $L^9-C(=O)N(OH)-$ group.

38. (original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is selected from C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene.

39. (original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is methylene or phenylene.

40. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 39~~ wherein X is CH.

41. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 40~~ wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^4 is H.

42. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 40~~ wherein at least two of R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H.

43. 43. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 40~~ wherein all of R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H.

44. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 43~~
wherein R³ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl.

45. (original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R³ is phenyl.

46. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 45~~
wherein R⁶ is H or C₁₋₇ alkyl.

47. (original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R⁶ is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

48. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 47~~
wherein L¹ is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH₂-phenylene- or -CH₂C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

49. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 48~~
wherein L² is a single bond or -C(=O)CH₂-.

50. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 34 to 49~~
wherein L³ is a single bond.